

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**7:00 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2011**  
**Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR**

*“Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community.”*

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Neal Klein called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members**

<b>Present:</b>	Neal Klein, <b>Chair</b>	Lesley Woodruff, <b>V. Chair</b>	Doris Brandt	Karl Birky
	Shannon Eoff	Ron Johns	James Oravetz	Dianna Cotter
	Ronald Sult			(arrived at 7:18 PM)

**Members**

**Absent:** Student Commissioner (VACANT)

**Staff**

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Bolek, Police Captain	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer
	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager	Jennifer Nelson, Minutes Recorder

**Ex Officio**

**Present:** Mayor Bob Andrews

**Others**

**Present:** Robert Soppe, Wayne Frost, and William Franklin

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) Review and approve minutes of October 10, 2011

**MOTION #1: Brandt/Oravetz** to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for October 10, 2011.  
Motion carried (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Cotter]).

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Robert Soppe spoke about a previous problem area at the intersection of College Street and Sheridan Street where there was another recent car accident. He spoke of long wait times of up to forty-five minutes, poor visibility, and traffic accidents with northbound College Street traffic when trying to travel across College eastbound on Sheridan as vehicles are backed up before the signal on Hancock Street. He mentioned vehicles involved in these accidents often end up in his front yard and there are only four solutions he can think of: make this a four-way stop which the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will not agree to and he does not recommend; have ODOT change the timing of the light at Hancock Street which would slow the traffic on 99W during rush hour; make this portion of Sheridan Street one-way, westbound only, so no vehicles can cross

College Street going east, which would also allow for parking on the north side, but is not very popular with the neighbors; or to make this a right in, right out only intersection all the time or at certain peak times of the day. He encouraged the commissioners to check out this area for themselves and try to come up with a solution, especially since there have been two accidents in the last three months there.

Commissioner James Oravetz agreed there was a problem here and spoke of his own experiences traveling through this area with a pick-up truck and trailer during Tunes on Tuesday events. He said the streets here in this area are very narrow and visibility is also hindered by trees, shrubbery, and vehicle parking.

Commissioner Karl Birky added a driver was half way through this particular intersection on his way home tonight and he could have hit them and felt the first step would be to collect crash data and work through ODOT since this is their intersection.

Commissioner Shannon Eoff spoke of personal experiences with “near misses” while traveling in this area and she has been asked by neighbors there to advocate for them if this comes up.

Chair Klein directed staff to gather crash history from the intersection of College Street and Sheridan Street to present for collaboration with ODOT as improvements to College Street may have detriment to traffic on 99W and to come back with a report in January.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, stated a right turn only sign would be a minimal impact solution. Chair Klein suggested involving ODOT to see if this would reduce the traffic or cause a conflict on Hwy 99W. Staff felt this would be more welcomed by ODOT.

Commissioner Eoff asked if the closeness to the downtown area is the reason why this is not pushed. Staff replied they would need to look at the pros and cons and include the homeowners and pedestrians using the road.

Mayor Andrews asked Mr. Soppe if he sees any problems with those traveling from the east side of College Street on Sheridan. Mr. Soppe said this seems fine as they are usually turning northbound on College and if they are crossing the vehicles southbound on College usually leave openings for those who wish to continue on Sheridan.

Commissioner Eoff asked about getting direct citizen feedback on this. Staff said they would usually include those within 200 feet of the intersection, but they can include a little more to see what business and other homeowners in the area think.

Commissioner Lesley Woodruff spoke about previous hearings regarding problems on Vittoria Way and inviting everyone to attend so they can have input before a decision is made. Chair Klein suggested putting something in The Newberg Graphic when posting the hearing for public testimony.

Commissioner Birky stated this does involve more users than just the residents and they should listen for their interests as well.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A) TSC-11-030: Pinehurst from Main to College – Speed issue  
TIME – 7:33 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report (see official meeting packet for full report).

Commissioner Dianna Cotter asked if this street, given the condition of the asphalt should be added to the list of resurfacing plans in the following years. Mr. Chiu said there are currently twenty-six miles of city streets in a similar condition and it costs \$60,000.00 to overlay this particular street from Main Street to College Street of which there is not budget for. This area is classified at low volume by ODOT and would have to be discussed with the maintenance superintendent as well.

Commissioner Oravetz asked if the speed study indicated if there was a time when traffic speeds were more excessive to consider extra enforcement. Staff replied the time of day for the speeders was not able to be narrowed down to a certain peak time as they were about one per hour so there was not a significant issue in that sense.

Commissioner Birky agreed with the staff recommendation and suggested contacting Councilor Wade Witherspoon and the requestor, Ms. Karen Lang, to discuss why there would be no action taken at this time. Mr. Chiu stated he did have a good conversation with Ms. Lang about the data not indicating a speed situation. She had hoped to see it resurfaced and understands this will be taken into consideration during fiscal budgeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A) TSC-11-028: Villa at Laurel – Reconsideration of Crosswalk request  
TIME – 7:45 PM

Mr. Wayne Frost spoke about not being able to attend when the decision was made regarding the crosswalk request at Villa Road and Laurel Drive, but he sees a lot of children and elderly people walking here everyday including himself and another person in a wheelchair and he wondered if the City was aware there is already a handicap ramp on the same side of the street as the college when they discussed the costs of installing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps. He said he is just asking for lines to be painted for the crosswalk since there is not a crosswalk on Villa Road from 99W until Haworth.

Commissioner Ron Johns spoke about his concerns for crosswalks sometimes being more dangerous, especially when they are poorly located. He said he has driven by the location and saw groups of pedestrians in the area and also noticed the one side with the ADA ramp, but it was just opposite to a yard on the other side of the street. He asked staff if there was an issue to placing a crosswalk when there is only a partial sidewalk on one side or none at all. Mr. Chiu spoke about the last meeting and a memo indicating a landing could be built to receive those crossing to be in compliance with ADA; once that was built they could mark the crosswalk and add signage.

Discussions followed about building an ADA ramp only to have pedestrians or wheelchairs continue directly into someone's lawn to continue on Laurel Drive without any sidewalks.

Commissioner Birky clarified that Mr. Frost is asking for a sidewalk to get across Laurel Drive. Mr. Frost said he expects the City to put a sidewalk down Laurel Drive and said it is not practical to not have a crosswalk across Villa Road; he said he can walk down Laurel Drive safely but the issues are down Main Street to get there. He added that Laurel Drive is a wide street, but there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood.

Chair Klein asked if others felt there was a need for a crosswalk across Villa Road first, and then they can tackle the ADA requirements.

Commissioner Eoff said her only reservation on this request was the cost of the ADA ramp and felt a crosswalk was probably necessary with all of the foot traffic.

Commissioner Woodruff said pedestrians can see a crosswalk as a magic carpet and will not look for cars coming, but if there is no crosswalk; people tend to be more cautious to make sure cars are stopping. She was not sure this would be safe for all pedestrians and that it gives them a false sense of security.

Mr. William Franklin said he also lives in the area and there are ramps on both sides of the fence at that house on the north side of the property there; he spoke of there being a crosswalk there before for thirty-five years before it was paved over when the road was resurfaced and it was not restored. Mayor Andrews said if this was already dedicated as a crosswalk then discussions needed to occur to reestablish it.

Mr. Chiu added he spoke to Mr. Russ Thomas, Maintenance Superintendent, about this and they could not pinpoint when it was paved over and why, but it could be put back if a decision came from the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC). Mayor Andrews called a point of order and asked why a decision was needed if it was already a crosswalk before. Mr. Chiu said because they could only speculate why it was paved over.

**MOTION #2: Oravetz/Birky** to reinstate the crosswalk at Villa Road and Laurel Drive. Motion withdrawn since a motion to reconsider must be made first.

Commissioner Birky stated there had been a significant change of use in that area and it could have been why it was not repainted. He added research shows marked crosswalks are often more dangerous than unmarked ones and when we repave an area it is an opportunity to look at whether you want to put the crosswalk back in or not and he can understand why this was not put back in.

Mayor Andrews agreed the crosswalk from the hospital to the medical facilities would have been abandoned with reason, but he questioned if this one was abandoned without the approval of the TSC and felt it should be reestablished if the TSC concurred.

**MOTION #3: Brandt/Cotter** to reconsider the previous decision to table **TSC-11-028** and not install a marked crosswalk at Villa Road and Laurel Drive, as requested. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/0 Absent).

**MOTION #4: Oravetz/Birky** to approve **TSC-11-028** and reestablish the marked crosswalk with signage at Villa Road and Laurel Drive.

Chair Klein asked Police Captain Chris Bolek if he had any opinion about automobile vs. pedestrians in marked vs. unmarked crosswalks. Captain Bolek said he did not have an opinion on this since there is no real data to look at one way or the other; however, if the driver is scanning the road ahead and they see crosswalk markings in the road this becomes one additional thing they need to be aware of.

Commissioner Eoff asked if this crosswalk can be grandfathered in without ADA requirements since it was previously established beforehand to get it restored now. Mr. Chiu said they may be relaxing certain requirements on this, but it would be prudent to have the ADA ramp in to be on the safe side. Chair Klein said there is nothing to prevent the reinstatement and the ADA issues can be discussed later.

**VOTE #4:** To approve **TSC-11-028** and reestablish the marked crosswalk with signage at Villa Road and Laurel Drive. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/0 Absent).

Chair Klein said he would like staff to discuss a ramp that goes nowhere as he has a son with a wheelchair and he would not want to have this.

B) TSC-11-029: N College at Mission – Reconsideration  
TIME – 8:22 PM

Chair Klein explained the next two items needed to be reconsidered because they were tabled without a specified time to come back or the decisions should be denied with no action taken.

**MOTION #5: Brandt/Eoff** to reconsider the previous decision to table **TSC-11-029** for a crosswalk and school zone request at N. College Street and Mission Drive based on there being no frontage on N. College Street and ODOT will be doing work there in the future. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/0 Absent).

**MOTION #6: Brandt/Eoff** to deny **TSC-11-029** and not take any action to reestablish the marked crosswalk with signage at N College Street and Mission Drive. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/0 Absent).

C) TSC-11-11-009A: Emma-Creekside – Reconsideration  
TIME – 8:25 PM

**MOTION #7: Woodruff/Brandt** to reconsider the previous decision to table **TSC-11-009A** requesting a stop sign installation at Emma Lane and Creekside Lane until there are more complaints from the neighborhood. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/0 Absent).

**MOTION #8: Woodruff/Brandt** to deny **TSC-11-009A** requesting a stop sign installation at Emma Lane and Creekside Lane and not take any action until there are more complaints from the neighborhood. Motion carried (9 Yes/0 No/0 Absent).

## **STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION**

B) Engineering Update

Mr. Chiu gave spoke about the Transportation System Plan (TSP) updates from the work session that was not addressed regarding opportunities for the TSC to interact or communicate with staff on the TSP. The recent update was not a full update, but a focused on local street systems after phase one of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass through the 2025 horizon and staff indicated the TSC can be involved in the future by attending workshops, open houses, or Planning Commission meetings. He also gave brief updates on the following:

- TSC-11-025: Foothills at N College – through Traffic & Parking request. Maintenance will schedule this work, weather permitting.
- January or December for flashing beacons – allows to finish by March but contractor wants to get done early
- Crestview project striping and signage
- College street pedestrian improvements in design stage

Commissioner Oravetz asked about the installation of a Jack-in-the-Box restaurant at Springbrook Road and 99W. Chair Klein indicated an email was sent to the TSC, more information is on the city website, and staff passed out information on this as well; he said since it was a level 2 review process and they were past the point where anything can be done as a commission.

Commissioner Cotter discussed possible effects this will have when construction starts on the Bypass. Staff stated the restaurant will be in place and running before this and ODOT's contingency plans will be coming in the spring.

Commissioner Oravetz felt this was another thing the TSC was not a part of where they could have been helpful. Chair Klein agreed and noted the desire to be active from this commission has been expressed to staff. Mayor Andrews added he and staff will convey this desire to planning staff and negotiate how this can be done.

A) Police Update

Captain Bolek gave reports on the sentencing of a criminal recently accused and found guilty of sex crimes where the Newberg-Dundee Police Department was involved in the investigations. He spoke of two positions being filled and the acceptance of the police bargaining agreement with the City of Newberg. He also mentioned recent upgrades that occurred and spoke of achievements and recognition received for Officer Chris Rasmussen.

Ms. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, gave updates from the dispatch department with the RMS upgrades and the hiring process to replace a vacant dispatcher position. She also noted the last of the bicycle maps have been distributed from the funds received from the ACTS Oregon grant and they were produced locally by the City's GIS department and Allegra.

Mayor Andrews asked if the citizens' advisory board still met for the police. Commissioner Doris Brandt replied she is on this board and they are meeting twice a year now. Mayor Andrews asked Captain Bolek about a growing amount of citations or warnings for illegal left turns and asked what this is. Captain Bolek replied this is a general charge that can be anything from improper lane movement to turning into the wrong lane.

C) Items from Commissioners

Mayor Andrews spoke about the next meeting being held in January with there being no gathering in December and mentioned an application was received for the Student Traffic Safety Commissioner. He also suggested staff and Chair Klein think carefully about what is being advertised and what you are looking for how to open discussions with the community regarding the public hearing for Sheridan Street and College Street.


Commissioner Woodruff discussed the differences between general and limited decisions with staff and rules for notification prior to decisions. The details were discussed about holding a public hearing vs. an open meeting. Commissioner Woodruff also wished to add the January agenda a discussion on the crosswalk on Howard Street going both ways when this is really only a one-way street; she has a request from a library employee.

Commissioner Brandt took RSVPs for Christmas meeting.

**ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM until January 9, 2011.

**Approved** by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

  
**Jennifer L. Nelson**  
**Minutes Recorder**

  
**Neal S. Klein**  
**Traffic Safety Commission Chair**